

The State of Washington



Proclamation

WHEREAS, more than 217,000 Americans have been confined by enemies of the United States during the last one hundred years; and

WHEREAS, many of these prisoners of war endured brutal and inhumane treatment by their captors in violation of international law; and

WHEREAS, today, there are still over 88,000 of these Americans still unaccounted for; and

WHEREAS, 1,855 servicemen and 35 civilians are still missing as a result of the Vietnam War – 45 of these individuals are from Washington State; and

WHEREAS, families and friends of these missing and unaccounted for Americans, as well as their fellow veterans, still endure uncertainty concerning their fate; and

WHEREAS, as a nation founded on principles of civil rights and justice, we have a moral obligation to make every effort to ascertain the truth about these Americans and put an end to the doubt and misery caused by this uncertainty;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Gary Locke, Governor of the state of Washington, do hereby proclaim September 14, 2004, as

POW/MIA Recognition Day

in Washington State, and I urge all citizens to join me in honoring the bravery and perseverance of former prisoners of war, those still missing, and their families.

Signed this 13th day of August, 2004

Governor Gary Locke

